

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

ANIMAL TRAILS AND WALKWAYS

(feet)
CODE 575

DEFINITION

A travel facility for livestock and/or wildlife to provide movement through difficult or ecologically sensitive terrain.

PURPOSE

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

- Provide or improve access to forage, water, loafing areas, and shelter.
- Improve grazing efficiency and distribution.
- Divert travel away from lands such as ecologically sensitive and/or erosive sites, other ownership's, cultural resources, and administrative areas.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Walkways will not be developed in Idaho where there is a potential for a negative impact on water quality.

On lands where animal movement is impeded or restricted such as, steep rough terrain, across rock outcrops, through dense timber or brush, over lava beds, on marsh rangelands, and grazing land susceptible to overflow by water.

To divert travel away from areas where conflict with other uses may occur such as riparian areas, cultural sites, administrative areas and boundaries.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable for All the Purposes Stated Above

Trails or walkways shall be constructed wide enough to accommodate movement of livestock and access by operator.

Trails or walkways shall be constructed in such a manner that accelerated erosion will not occur. Where water diversions are necessary a non-erosive outlet will be provided.

Culverts, bridges, or hardened crossings will be installed if needed to maintain channel and streambank stability where a stream is crossed by the trail. Construction material will be defined prior to trail construction.

Criteria Applicable for Walkways

Walkways will be constructed to meet minimum height requirements above normal high water.

Construction of walkways may require permits for fill and removal of material in wetlands in accordance to IDWR and COE rules.

When necessary structures will be installed to prevent interference with natural water movement.

Additional forage to be made available shall justify the expense of developing the trail or walkway.

CONSIDERATIONS

When trails or walkways are seeded or planted to vegetative cover consider protecting from grazing until planted material is fully established and capable of withstanding grazing and/or trampling. When seeding trails and walkways use Critical Area Planting Standard 342.

Other practices that facilitate grazing distribution and proper intensity such as prescribed grazing and off-site watering facilities should be implemented along with this practice.

Water Quantity

Effects on the water budget, especially on localized rates and volumes of runoff.

Where applicable, consider the effects of snowcatch and melt on the water budget.

Water Quality

Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff.

Where trails or walkways occur in or allow access to wetlands consider the impacts to water quality due to changes in hydrology, grazing, trampling, construction, operation, and maintenance.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Each trail or walkway shall have a site-specific design based on the criteria in this standard.

Spacing of stock trails will be so located that ends of trails (points of destination) will not be closer than one-half mile apart.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation will consist of periodic clearing, grading or shaping on trails and walkways to maintain designed dimensions. Maintenance will consist of repair that may be needed following major storm events such as high runoff events or other occurrences that cause damage and interfere in the normal operation of this practice.

All stock trails and walkways will be maintained to approximate original design for normal life of the practice.

Trails shall be at least 2 feet wide and clearing at least 9 feet wide through areas of heavy forest.

On granitic soils, grades will not exceed 10 percent. EXCEPTION - short distances of not more than 150 feet exceeding 10 percent may be installed. Water bar spacing will not exceed 50 feet on any percent slope on granitic soils.

On non-granitic soils water bars will be installed within 50 feet from the crest and not to exceed 50 foot spacing thereon on trails exceeding 20 percent grade. Water bars will be installed within 75 feet from the crest and not to

exceed 75 feet spacing thereon on grades less than 20 percent.

Angle of turns may not exceed 135 degrees.

Where a concentrated flow, intermittent, or perennial stream is crossed by the trail crossings such as corrugated metal pipe, bridges, or rock will be installed.

Construction materials will be defined prior to trail construction.

Walkways will have a minimum of 10 feet top width and top will be at least 2 feet above normal high water level.

Walkways will be constructed of fill material excavated outside of the wetland.